

**FAIRFAX COUNTY ATHLETIC COUNCIL
MINUTES**

November 16, 2005

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michael Champness, Dranesville District
Harold Leff, Hunter Mill District
Barbara R. Lowrey, Mason District
Stephen McLaughlin, Providence District
Roger Sims, Springfield District
David Lacey, Sully District
Elizabeth T. Bradsher, Member-At-Large
Sam Althoff, Town of Vienna
Rob Hahne, Fairfax County Baseball Council
William Pruiett, Alternate, Fairfax County Girls' Fast Pitch Softball
Carl Coan, Fairfax County Adult Softball Council
Mark Meana, Fairfax County Football Board of Commissioners
Bill Harvey, Fairfax County Lacrosse Council
Ralph Wills, Fairfax County Soccer Advisory Council
Tricia Johnson, Fairfax County Volleyball Council
William J. Stephens, Fairfax County Women's Sports Programs

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES:

George Lovelace, Fairfax County Park Authority
Timothy White, Fairfax County Park Authority
Paul Jansen, Fairfax County School Board
Patricia D. Franckewitz, Department of Community and Recreation Services
Karen Avvisato, Department of Community and Recreation Services
Jesse Ellis, Department of Community and Recreation Services

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Joseph Jozefczyk, Braddock District
Lula Bauer, Lee District
Wesley "Mike" Viilo, Mt. Vernon District
J. Marcelo Gangotena, Diversity-At-Large
Jeffrey E. Stein, Town of Clifton
Jerry Carter, Town of Herndon
Robert L. Panek, Fairfax County Girls Fast Pitch Softball
Tom Moore, Fairfax County Youth Basketball Council

GUESTS:

Bruce Hall, Vice Chairman, Fairfax County Baseball Council
John Breheny, Laurel Hill Sportsplex

Meeting Opening – Mr. McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Mr. Leff called the roll. A quorum was present.

Citizens to Address Council - None

Administrative Items - On motion, the October 19, 2005, minutes were approved.

Chairman's Items – Mr. McLaughlin commented that the Field Study would not replicate the county's information, but would improve on the existing list.

Committee Reports

Artificial Turf – Mr. Ellis reported that all nine districts submitted a notice of intent to upgrade a field in their district. This would cause a problem for setting a committee. Mr. Sims suggested letting the sports organizations look at the application first, and then send it to the magisterial representatives for review. Considerable discussion continued on the review process. Ms. Franckewitz said, as one option, she may request that all magisterial districts be represented on the committee. More information on this will be discussed at a future meeting.

Sports Forum - It was decided that there would be no Sports Forum next year, but the Council is looking to continue the Character Counts Awards through the Board of Supervisors' meetings.

Presentations to Council – John Breheny, Founder of the Laurel Hill Sports Foundation, presented his proposal to build a sports complex at the Laurel Hill site. The first phase of the project would include nine lighted artificial turf rectangular fields, plus a field house with indoor rectangular fields, a track, and volleyball courts. Additional phases would include more rectangular and diamond fields. In response to requests from the Council, Mr. Breheny said he is proposing \$100 per hour for use of ball fields or for each indoor sports facility. Ms. Bradsher said she liked the field portion of the proposal, but added that the Laurel Hill task force was against keeping the old reformatory buildings and turning them into dormitories for visitors playing in games at Laurel Hill. The Foundation is planning on allowing community sports groups to use the fields for free during the week when no tournaments are scheduled. There was considerably more discussion before Mr. Breheny wrapped up his presentation.

Matters of Interest from Governing Bodies

Information – Board of Supervisors: Nothing to report

Information – Fairfax County Park Authority: Mr. Lovelace reminded the Council of the public hearing meeting at Woodson High School regarding lights at fields.

Information – Fairfax County School Board: Paul Jansen, FCPS, said the school system is looking into a way of putting artificial turf on 25 high school stadium fields in the county and to place community use coordinators at each high school.

Information – Community and Recreation Services: Ms. Franckewitz continued the discussion regarding artificial turf at high school fields. She asked the Council for input for this endeavor. She also asked the Artificial Turf Committee to look into ways of funding this.

Mr. Ellis said that the Positive Coaching Alliance Training was awarded to nine organizations representing six sports in seven districts.

New Business

Diamond Fields at Colin Powell E.S. - Mr. Hahne said there is a diamond field for baseball that is lighted and irrigated that the community is currently not being allowed to use, as appropriate fencing has not yet been approved by FCPS. However, CRS is getting together with FCPS to see what can be done. Mr. Wills moved to support proceeding with the plan as approved which included fencing for this field. Ms. Johnson seconded. The motion passed.

Lewinsville Park - Mr. Wills spoke to the Council about the Board of Supervisors' attempt in court to resolve the field use policy for Lewinsville Park in McLean. Mr. Wills noted that a proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment was under consideration by the Board of Supervisors which would alter the definition of "public use"; and that the Board requested input from the Athletic Council prior to reconsideration. Mr. Sims requested staff request a briefing from the Department of Planning and Zoning to clarify the proposed changes and any possible impact. Presentation/briefing scheduled for the December FCAC meeting.

Committee Reports – continued

Artificial Turf Field Committee - Mr. Sims moved that the package of turf field submissions first be reviewed by the Turf Field Committee. Then the committee would turn their findings over to the nine magisterial district representatives and they, in turn, would rank the proposals in order and submit this ranking to Ms. Franckewitz. The motion was seconded. After more discussion as to who would be eligible to sit on this committee, the motion was withdrawn.

Adjournment

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harold Leff
Secretary